



*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
Promoting Improvement*

**Providing Inspection Services for
Department of Education
Department for Employment and Learning
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure**



Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Nipper's Alley Playgroup
Omagh**

June 2012

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF NIPPER'S ALLEY PLAYGROUP, OMAGH, CO TYRONE, BT79 9LG (2BB-0454)

The inspection in October 2010 of the Nipper's Alley Playgroup highlighted strengths in the playgroup's welcoming ethos, the hard-working staff and the very good teamwork, the effective leadership and management of the management committee and the satisfactory to good opportunities for learning in most areas of the pre-school curriculum.

The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to develop further the assessment methods in order to plan for progression in the children's learning and development;
- to improve the quality of the staff interaction to promote more effectively the children's language development; and
- to develop further the self-evaluation processes to sustain improvement in the development of the pre-school programme.

In the interval since the inspection, the following actions which affect the work of the playgroup have taken place:

- a new leader and a new assistant have been appointed;
- the staff has worked hard to develop a stimulating outdoor learning environment;
- the management committee and staff have worked closely with the early years specialist (EYS) from the, Early Years Organisation (EYO), to bring about improvements in the provision and
- the staff have taken part in observation and assessment training provided by the EYO;

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried two monitoring visits and a follow-up inspection on 12 June 2012.

The action plan produced by the playgroup in response to the 2010 inspection findings was of good quality. The playgroup's development plan had been adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

The following are the most important improvements since the inspection in 2010:

- the staff have developed appropriate methods of observation and assessment which appropriately inform future planning;
- the interactions of the staff with the children to promote learning are consistently good and at times very good;
- the staff have developed further the process of self-evaluation; and
- there is now a three year development plan in place with appropriate action plans to guide further improvements in the centre.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this playgroup is now very good. The playgroup is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the children and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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